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OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON, 5th Sept., 1843.

In the Madisonian of the 29th December last, official information, received from the Spanish Legation in the United States, respecting the heirs of Mrs. Josepha Schenault, who died at St. Jago de Cuba, in 1834, was published for the benefit of those whom it might concern.

Recent information has been received from the same source, by which it appears that the property in question is to go to the blood relatives of the deceased, who are believed to reside in Pennsylvania. Upon application by the parties interested, either personally, or by agent, at the Department of State, the information on file in that office will be furnished.

MR. CLAY.

Mr. Clay has been a candidate for the Presidency from the moment of his return from Europe, at the close of the last war, up to the present time, now a period of six-and-twenty years. Twice or three he has gone to the polls, and once with the whole support of the party to which he belonged. That he will continue to be a candidate, till success or death extinguishes such a condition, no one acquainted with his character and his indomitable ambition can doubt. Let us do Mr. Clay justice; let us commend his virtues, and applaud his talents; let us praise him for all in him that is praiseworthy; and this the more cheerfully, as we do not intend to extenuate his political faults, and the fatal, fatal consequences of his political conduct in 1841. Without much literature, or any great extent of general knowledge, he has a strong understanding, now a good deal cultivated by habits of business. A good person, a fine voice, an attractive and commanding manner, fit him eminently for public debate; and he loves, to a lamentable excess, what he excels in. His irritable temper brooks no contradiction, and by far founder of invective and retort, than of the influences of soft persuasion, neither friend nor foe, who opposes him in debate, can expect quarter. Indeed on these occasions he treats his friends worse than his foes; for while he looks upon the latter as enemies, in a lawful war, he regards the former as rebellious subjects who deserve no mercy. To precise logic, or cool reasoning, he has little pretence; but for the illustration and enforcement of general principles, his resources are respectable, and the skill with which he uses them evinces both adroitness and practice. He has other important qualities of a distinguished leader in popular assemblies. He is bold, fearless, ready, ardent, and even undisciplined and overthrown, as he often is, when in a good cause, by his imprudence and excess, he can retire, leaving such a note of retreat nevertheless, as still seems to have an air of triumph in it. Excessively fond of admiration, as a public orator, and consequently studying effect more than a wise man should, he cannot, and never could, forego a joke, or a sarcasm, which should bring applause from the gallery, though, at the same time, it should plant a dagger, or create a *vulnus inextinguibile*, in another's heart. The natural result of this temper has been fully shown. While no man, in his speeches, gains more general applause, no man inflicts so much private pain, or creates so deep-seated a dislike in the bosom of his adversaries.

The history of Mr. Clay's opinions, since 1806, and of his steady efforts—steady in their objects, though far from steady in their means—must hereafter form topics of discussion. The position in which he has now chosen to place himself, and the hostilities which he has commenced, render this absolutely necessary, for the purposes of lawful defence. At present, we confine ourselves to the occurrences in '39, '40.

Mr. Clay was a candidate for the nomination of President, at the Harrison Convention, in December, 1839. His sanguine and ardent temperament would not suffer him to indulge in the least apprehension of defeat. No friend, nor all his friends together, could persuade him that Gen. Harrison or Gen. Scott would be more likely than himself to succeed against Mr. Van Buren. He would not believe it—did not believe it—does not believe it now. At this moment, he is perfectly convinced, that if he had been nominated, he would have been elected; and the defeat of his nomination he imputes to treachery and fraud. There are those who prefer another candidate, and whom, for that reason alone, he chooses to consider and denounce as enemies and traitors, whom he has since pursued, and will pursue, till they go to their graves, or he goes to his, with implacable resentment. He has an iron memory for injuries; and he is like other men who hate without cause. A sort of consciousness that they themselves are wrong, and that they have no cause to hate, only leads them to hate the more. A conscience, accusing itself of unjust resentment, often seeks to quiet its own pangs, by increased exasperation.

As to Mr. Clay's apparently graceful withdrawal from the controversy, for the sake of harmony, and the letter produced and read on the occasion, there was nothing in all this but show. Mr. Clay's friends never gave up their persistence, their pertinacity, their adherence (to use the strongest Parliamentary phrase) to Mr. Clay's nomination, till he was beaten, thoroughly beaten, irreversibly beaten, in the Convention. And then, an attempt was made, adroit enough, but as deceived nobody, to turn his defeat into a withdrawal.

But from that disappointment Mr. Clay's wounded spirit has never recovered. He soon afterwards, indeed, endeavored to make the best

of it; to support General Harrison's election and to place himself in the line of succession next to the General, who had declared his intention of serving one term only.

CLAY AND WEBSTER.

"The Boston Courier" (which may be considered Mr. Webster's stand-by in Boston), in publishing Mr. Clay's Chambersburg letter, seizes on a point to retaliate the war made by Mr. Clay on Mr. Tyler, and flings back the charges of perfidy and treachery. This strongly indicates where Mr. Webster is to go, in the next campaign.—Globe.

The Globe takes offence at such an indication, and in the same paper takes up the cudgels for Mr. Clay, and assails Mr. Webster worse than any of the *avowed* Clay papers are doing. We notice this fact to show that, instead of fighting against the common enemy, the Globe omits no good opportunity to fight for him. We think the principles of Democracy have more to apprehend from Mr. Clay in 1844 than Mr. Webster. And we think the Globe might manage to assail Mr. Webster without *aiding* Mr. Clay.

By the last arrival from England we find the following items:

Lord Brougham made a furious onslaught upon President Tyler and his son in the House of Lords a few evenings back, when the affairs of the sister country were incidentally discussed. "A person named Tyler," said to be a son of the President, has taken part in the repeal agitation! exclaimed the noble Lord, who proceeded to say that "no one was answerable for the fooleries—the excessive fooleries—of his family!" Lord Brougham, while thus severe on the son, styled the sire the "accidental President of the United States," but he could not believe, unless he saw the document with his own eyes, that that functionary had written the letter attributed to him in favor of repeal.

Any British attempt to restrict the liberty of speech in America, will certainly be regarded as an insult by the American people. We have reason to anticipate a fatal collision with England at no distant day, if such sentiments are generally entertained by British subjects, as are expressed above, and in the paragraph below, (the assertions in the latter all being wickedly and maliciously false.)

At an adjourned meeting of the Glasgow Anti-Slavery Society, Mr. H. C. Wright, an American, made a statement, stranger even in its manner than its matter—

"The President of the United States is a thief and a robber; and I request that this may be recorded, if reported is present at the meeting. (Cheers and laughter.) I state to you a fact, and I hardly ever find an American to say he cannot state it. Perhaps you will think I have no patriotism; but I have; I am full of it. It is not America, nor England, nor France, nor Europe that is my country, but the world. (Cheers.) I have no wish to acknowledge any country but the world, and no countrymen but the human family alone. Now, standing on this platform, I say that John Tyler, the President of America—and I have the evidence before me—sold his own soul at auction. (Sensation.) The people of the United States, knowing the fact, elected him to be their President. (Shame.) Why, it is no disgrace to all for a man in that country to sell his own offspring; and why should it be, if it be no disgrace to sell any body else? (Cheering.) It may be more horrible, but the principle is the same. No one will deny that in that country that John Tyler has children in slavery, and that he has pocketed money for them. (Sensation.) The children of Jefferson, the writer of the boasted document of American Independence, are in slavery, and this no one will deny in our country."

HARTFORD PATRIOT AND EAGLE.—We perceive by the last number of this paper, that Mr. Holbrook, its editor, has withdrawn from the editorial chair, and taken a farewell of his friends and patrons. The Patriot, under its late management, has been a very able and faithful champion of the Administration cause. Mr. H.'s valedictory is written in a spirit of candor, and in a manner which does great credit to his head and heart.

NEW WORKS AT FRANK TAYLOR'S.

RUSSELL'S HISTORY OF POLYNESIA—with a map. No. 158 of Harper's Family Library. This is the most accurate and interesting account of the principal Islands in the South Sea, including New Zealand.

THE AMERICAN POULTRY BOOK, by Micajah R. Cook—being a practical treatise on the management of domestic poultry—certainly a very useful work for the farmer.

WORKS OF HANNAH MORE, No. 3, price 25 cents. This excellent publication (to be completed in eight numbers) is destined to command an extensive sale. The reading public in this country will appreciate it as highly as it is valued in Europe.

THE PRESIDENT'S DOWNTOWN—PART II. NINA. Translated by Mary Howitt from the Swedish of Frederika Bremer. One of the best novels republished by the Harpers.

PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, by John Frost, A. M., No. 6, has been received. Price 25 cents.

DINNERS.

The Republicans of Virginia have recently complimented Messrs. Gilmer and Hunter with public dinners, which "went off" with patriotic enthusiasm.

CASUAL CORRESPONDENCE.

We received the following letter last night: BROWN'S HOTEL, Sept. 5, 1843. MR. EDITOR.—You have said a great deal about the Globe's evil designs and the "Congressional printing." Will you define your own views and purposes in relation to the Presidency and the printing? Z. Y. X.

ANSWER.

It is not our habit to answer the interrogatories of anonymous correspondents, or to pay any attention to their comments on our course. In this instance, however, and probably contrary to the expectation of "Z. Y. X.," we will depart from the rule adopted in such cases, and frankly give him the information he seems to desire.

We presume it is hardly necessary to say who is our first choice for the Presidency. Belonging to the Republican anti-Bank party, of course we first look to the head of the party—the one who demolished the Bank bills—as the best qualified to defeat the Bank candidate in 1844.

Should our first choice not be selected as the candidate, we are not committed to any other man, and have resolved to remain so until the nomination is made. We are committed

against the Bank, the distribution of the land, and the assumption of State debts, in short the whole string of anti-Republican measures advocated by Mr. Clay.

We are in favor of the union, harmony, triumph and permanent ascendancy of the Republican party; and we shall not forbear to assail the common enemy between this and the assembling of Congress, with a view to conciliate the friends of Mr. Clay, who will have a voice in the election of printer. We are not a candidate for the printing; but if we were we should never seek any favors at the hands of the party that benefit us of the Executive printing in 1842. We shall never ask an enemy to repair a wrong done us; much less seek a benefit by an abandonment of principle, and by means of a cessation of hostilities at a time when the party most needs the services of all its members, and which might ultimately be the cause of its overthrow.

A poor man will serve the party to which he belongs with greater energy and fidelity than a rich one. A rich one may endeavor to make the party serve him. The one is dependent on the other independent of the party.

All we ask for the next ten years in the way of patronage, is a respectable support. The exciting interest which the political battles will afford us will be an ample compensation for our labors.

Having commenced our political studies under rather inauspicious circumstances, (every body's wall running against our head) our greatest desire now is to attain some little proficiency in the profession. And if Mr. Clay should be elected, it is our intention to oppose the Federal measures of his administration, and fight on the Republican side in 1848 and '52.

Correspondence of the Madisonian.

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, (Near Winchester,) September 2, 1843. THE PRESIDENT IN THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA—His reception—Anecdote—Company at "Jordan's"—President's skill in boxing—Miss Alice Tyler—Balls, &c.

The President of the United States, accompanied by several members of his family, arrived at this agreeable watering place on Tuesday last in the cars from Washington. He appears to be in good health and spirits, but I am sorry to learn that the health of one of his daughters is extremely delicate. A large number of his friends, from both Winchester and the country around, have called upon him to pay their respects; and as far as I have been able to see and learn, all who were not previously acquainted with him, have been very agreeably disappointed. From the rank vituperation and abuse, both political and personal, which Whig presses and Whig partisans have so unceasingly heaped upon him, many persons expected to behold something *outré*—in truth, almost a monster; but the plain and unassuming appearance, and frank and social manners of JOHN TYLER, soon dispelled their delusion; and I venture to predict that, ere he leaves our mountains, he will have won "troops of friends."

A little incident took place here on Wednesday, which, as it afforded some amusement for a time, I will relate. Mr. S., a fat and jolly Democrat from the country, after becoming acquainted with the President, met with some of his neighbors, who also desired an introduction, and so he accordingly conducted them to the presence of his Excellency, and very formally introduced them to—CAPTAIN TYLER. The company around began to smile and titter, and Mr. S. (upon some one reminding him of his mistle) was beginning to feel uneasy, when the President, with much *naïveté* and humor, came to his relief, explained how he came by the *soubriquet*, and soon put his worthy friend perfectly at ease.

The number now at these healthful and delightful waters is quite large. Among the visitors are Chief Justice Taney and family, Roger Jones, Adjutant General of the Army; the Hon. Edward Kavenagh, Acting Governor of Maine; and Judges Nicholas of Virginia and Randall of Florida. There are also many visitors from Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and North Carolina.

The ladies and gentlemen amuse themselves every morning with a game of bowls, in which the President usually takes a part. He appears to have a keen relish for the sport, and is an excellent bowler. Miss Tyler also plays well, and their side generally comes off victorious.

In the evening, the spacious ball-room is thrown open and lit up, and the standing order—"On with the dance, Let joy be unconfined!"—

is proclaimed; and, of course, the mandate is eagerly obeyed. The President and family generally attend the saloon on these occasions, and the graceful form of Miss ALICE TYLER, as she moves through the dance, is the admiration of many an eye.

To-morrow (Sunday) the President goes to Winchester to attend divine worship, having accepted the polite invitation of Wm. L. CLARK, Esq., President of the Railroad Company, who very kindly offered to despatch an extra locomotive and car for the purpose of taking him there and bringing him back.

Mr. TYLER will leave here in a few days for the fine and hospitable mansion of Colonel J. W. WARE, in Clarke County, where he will remain for some time.

A VIRGINIAN.

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

Vermont, August 29, 1843.

MR. EDITOR: Our annual election for the choice of State officers, members of the Senate, and Representatives to the State Legislature, and four members of Congress, comes off this day week. There is but little feeling, and less excitement than we have had on any similar occasion for many years.—The leaders of the Democratic and Whig parties are making no extra efforts, and the probability is that a small vote will be polled. The Democratic candidate for Governor is Daniel Kellogg, of Rockingham, a lawyer by profession, doing an extensive business, of commanding legal attainments, and of great moral worth, and should be elected, would do honor to the office, as all, whether friend or foe, will readily admit.

The Madisonian.

VOL. VII.—NO. 8.] WASHINGTON: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1843. [WHOLE NO. 970.

"Honest Jack Mattocks," as the Coons call him, is the Whig candidate for Governor; he lives in Peacham, and was a member of the last Congress, and, despairing of a re-election, used some discretion in declining to be again a candidate for that office. He was put in nomination by the Whigs, on account of his abolition principles, in hopes thereby to secure the votes of these deluded fanatics. Whether he will be elected Governor, is a matter of much doubt. My opinion, however, is that he will not be elected by the people. But, as father Ritchie says, "Now comes." Charles K. Williams, of Rutland, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is the Liberty party or abolition candidate for Governor. He is also a Whig. It is not expected by any one that he can be elected. He is expected to draw off some few votes from the Democratic candidate, who makes no profession of abolitionism. Williams is as good a Whig as Mattocks; and Mattocks as good an Abolitionist as Williams. So you will see that the Whigs have what is termed, in common parlance, two strings to their bow. I have no sympathy for these abolitionists, for they are a set of corrupt, dishonest, and unprincipled men, who are not satisfied with any thing that they do not themselves possess.—If they had the power to hold slaves given them, in this State, they would be the first to possess themselves of slaves, and the last to give them up. We hope and trust that the intelligent freemen of Vermont will frown down the base coalition of the Whigs and abolitionists; for we can regard the relative position of these two parties in no other light; to array one portion of our fellow-citizens against the other, for the base and selfish purpose of retaining political power. We do not—the honest and intelligent freemen of Vermont do not wish to interfere with the domestic institutions of our brethren at the South. We think them capable of managing their own private concerns, and shall continue to think so until they call on us for advice and assistance. Gen. T. B. Ransom, of Norwich, C. B. Harrington, of Middletown, Hon. John Smith, of St. Albans, and Paul Dillingham, Jr. Esq. of Waterbury, are the Democratic candidates for members of Congress. They are all good men and true, and deserve to be elected. Paul Dillingham, Jr. has formerly been the Democratic candidate for Governor, and is a man that is universally beloved and respected by the people of Vermont in general. He will be elected by a triumphant majority, we do not doubt. Of the other three, we have not much hopes of their election.

Solomon Foots, of Rutland, George P. Marsh, of Burlington, Jacob Colman, of Woodstock, and Geo. B. Chandler, of Danville, are the Whig candidates for Congress. The prospect now is that Messrs. Foots, Marsh, and Colman will be elected. Mr. Foots has been Speaker of the House of Representatives, and is a man of respectable talents, but a rabid Whig. Mr. Marsh is a lawyer in Burlington, and is in company with Wyllys Lyman, the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor. He has never been up before the people for any office, and therefore he is but little known. Jacob Colman has formerly been one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and has taken an active part in the political world. He is rather conservative in his politics; the least tainted with abolitionism, and as unobjectionable as any Whig that could have been nominated by the Whigs. Of George B. Chandler we know nothing, and the public will not know any more (for he stands no possible chance of an election) for a long time to come, unless they become acquainted with him in the walks of private life. After the election is over, I will, if desired, forward the result. The farmers with us are very busy harvesting their crops, which are very good, and the weather for securing them was never better.

Truly yours

REVIEW

Of Histoire des progrès du Droit des Gens en Europe depuis la Paix de Westphalie jusqu'au Congrès de Vienne. Avec un précis historique du Droit des Gens Européen avant la Paix de Westphalie, par HENRI WIEBART, Ministre des Etats Unis d'Amérique, pressé la Cour de Berlin. Leipzig, Brockhaus, 1841. [Translated from the Leipzig Blattler für Literarische Unterhaltung für die Madisonian.]

Since the publication of Marten's well known treatise on the law of nations, the public attention has been almost exclusively drawn, especially in Germany, to those questions of internal public law which regard the constitutional liberties of states, so that the study of that branch of public law which is supposed to regulate their international relations has been somewhat neglected. This neglect may also be attributed, in some degree, to the disgust inspired by daily witnessing the most flagrant violations of all law, which, in theory, is equally binding on all, but which the more powerful states have so often disregarded and trampled under foot whenever their own interest came in competition with the rights of the weaker.

The elaborate and voluminous writings of Grotius, Puffendorf, Wolf, and Vattel, with their swarm of commentators, assuming to teach nations and rulers their respective rights and duties, and universally admitted in the schools, and even in the polemical discussions of statesmen, as conclusive authority in all international controversies, were not sufficient to prevent that great political enormity, the partition of Poland, which the public jurists have since treated as an accomplished wrong for which the international code affords no practical remedy. Whilst the professors of natural jurisprudence were occupied in vain inquiries and disputations respecting the obligation, or binding force of the so-called law of nations, the practice of states was too often conformed to the maxim stated by Thucydides to be that which governed his countrymen—"that to a king or commonwealth, whatever was useful, was just"—and to the detestable principles which guided the political conduct of the petty tyrants of Italy during the middle age, and which Machiavel has elaborated into a theory in his celebrated *Princeps*. The sciences of international justice thus came to be considered by the public in general as a solemn mockery, and its very name of international law as bitter irony, since its obligation was acknowledged, in practice, by no power strong enough to disregard its injunctions. But a new era is, we trust, now before us, in which, if the principle of popular sovereignty is not admitted in each or in right, at least the moral personality of each particular nation is universally acknowledged, and that affords sufficient ground for public opinion to consider the principles of international justice as a serious object of inquiry, and not to suffer itself any longer to be imposed upon by mere words. From this point of view ought to follow, as a necessary consequence, the revision of that system which has hitherto been considered as forming the law between nations; and this revision will follow, so soon as the study of that science shall no longer be considered as a mere elegant relaxation of the higher classes of society, from which the diplomats of the old world are almost exclusively selected; so soon as it shall come

to be considered, as is already the case with constitutional law, an indispensable branch of knowledge for every citizen concerned in public affairs, instead of being confined to a particular social class. The popular element will thus infuse itself into the law of nations, and give it that healthy and manly tone which it has hitherto lacked, when confined within the narrow circle of a pretentious and pedantic diplomacy. This revolution was already begun when the venerable Franklin—*ce superbe veillard*, as Hassan calls him—appeared on the European scene as the worthy representative of a new world emancipated from the old; and it was continued during that gigantic struggle between the principles of the French revolution and its armed opponents in Europe.

The so much to be desired revision of the existing system of international law must not be founded on those antiquated theories of the right divine of kings, which consider the social contract as a Leonidus partnership, in which the people have duties which they owe to their sovereigns, but no rights except such as are spontaneously conceded to them by the good pleasure of their hereditary rulers. It requires an impartial history of the gradual development of those fundamental principles which constitute the basis of the international law received among the civilized and Christian nations of the earth. Such a history is that contained in the work of Mr. WHEATON now before us, and which is such as might be expected from the enlightened author of the *Elements of International Law*, published in 1836.

After a short introduction, containing a sketch of the progress of the law of nations in Europe previous to the peace of Westphalia, the author divides the history of its progress since that memorable event into four distinct periods. 1st, from the peace of Westphalia, 1648, to that of Utrecht; 2d, from the peace of Utrecht, 1713, to that of Paris and Hubertsburg, 1763; 3d, from the peace of 1763 to the French revolution, 1789; and 4th, from the first French revolution to the Congress of Vienna, 1815. He does not even stop at this last epoch, but passes in review the subsequent measures of the Holy Alliance, and the various interventions of the five great European powers in the internal affairs of the minor states down to the French, Polish and Belgic revolutions of 1830, and the formation of the separate quadruple alliance for regulating the affairs of the Peninsula in 1834.

The introduction to Mr. W.'s work shows us how imperfect were the notions entertained by the nations of classic antiquity—the Greeks and Romans—respecting international justice. It conducts us through the midnight darkness of the Middle Age, and explains the influence of the Roman law, (which survived the destruction of the Roman empire,) and of the writings of the Spanish casuists, in forming the primary elements of the modern international code of Europe, which were afterwards elaborated into a complete system by Grotius. The author dwells with fond enthusiasm on the noble character of this illustrious man, whose labors worked the most salutary change in the practical intercourse of the nations in favor of humanity and justice. Speaking of the public jurists formed in the school of Grotius, Mr. W. quotes the words of his own celebrated countryman, PATRICK HENRY, and asserts that it would be difficult to name any class of writers who, whatever may be their faults considered as scientific expositors, have contributed so much to promote the progress of civilization as "these illustrious authors—the friends of human nature—these kind instructors of human errors and frailties—these benevolent spirits, who held up the torch of science to a benighted world."

We must here be excused for reverting to the original source of international law. It obviously derives its origin from the fact that as the social relations between two individuals, not under civil subjection the one to the other, give rise to rules of justice for regulating those relations, which are conformable to the general opinion of mankind, and constitute private law independent of positive institutions (*est autem jus a justitia appellatum*, says Ulpian), so the mutual relations between two or more independent nations must be regulated, and the controversies which arise between them must be determined by similar rules of justice, the existence of which are generally recognized by opinion as forming the customary law of nations. But the social relations which subsist between the different nations of the ancient world, Greek and barbarian, were far from being of that intimate nature which could give rise to a public law of universal obligation such as that which subsists among the modern nations of Christendom. The conventional law prevailing between the Grecian states had no better sanction than the notorious *græca fides*; whilst imperial Rome, though she recognized the *jus gentium* as foreign law to be applied to the civil transactions between foreigners, was proudly ignorant of any law of nations in the modern sense of the term, by which even enemies are admitted to have rights, and the vanquished may appeal to the sense of justice of his conqueror. The Roman *jus fœdiale* was cunningly moulded into a practical instrument to work out the ends which the chameleon character of the Roman *legatus*, by turns ambassador, civil and military officer, or spy—was delegated to accomplish among the nations they sought to make their prey. Their *jus fœdiale* may, indeed, sometimes be found to contain a formal recognition of those principles which were practically disregarded by the Romans in their conduct to other nations, but we must seek in the works of modern jurists for a better exposition of these principles than can be found in those of the Roman lawyers. The milder light of Christianity, by which we are taught to consider all men as brethren and equals, first explored the way to the establishment of a tone of international law founded on morality and equal justice, and sanctioned by that peculiar system of manners, institutions, and opinions, which is common to the civilized nations of Europe, and their descendants in the new world.

The learned author of the work before us, proceeds to explain how the principles of European international law have been gradually developed since the peace of Westphalia. After a few introductory remarks upon the influence of this important transaction, considered as the corner-stone of European public law, as it stood until the office was violently overthrown by the French revolution, and again reconstructed by the Congress of Vienna in 1815—he reviews the series of wars and negotiations which followed the peace of Westphalia. These wars were mainly excited by the restless ambition of Louis XIV., who sought to restore the family of the Stuarts to the British throne, and to place his own grandson on that of Spain and the Indies. The successive treaties of peace at Aix la Chapelle, 1668, Nimwegen, 1678, and Ryswick, 1697, were but so many suspensions of hostilities, whilst the original causes of war still remained unremoved. During the minority of Louis XIV., under the administration of Cardinal Mazarin, the French Cabinet had adopted the policy and principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of England then

* Patrick Henry's speech on the British Debts.—Wirt's Life.

distracted and weakened by the civil wars. The French ambassador, in his address to the Republican Parliament, laid down the maxim, that the relations of amity and commerce between different States had no necessary connexion with the forms of their respective governments. This reasonable maxim was reversed a few years subsequently, when the political interests of Louis XIV. induced him to support the claim of the exiled house of Stuart to the British throne founded on the principle of divine right, or what has been since called legitimacy. The English revolution of 1688 had raised to that throne his irreconcilable enemy, William of Orange, who put himself at the head of the grand alliance against France. The practice of Louis XIV. was in direct contradiction to the wise and benevolent principles laid down by the virtuous Fenelon, in his instructions to his royal pupil, the Duke of Burgundy, on the duties of a King. The result was a war of the Spanish succession, which placed a Bourbon dynasty on the throne of Spain at an immense expense of blood and treasure, but lost France the opportunity of extending her frontiers to the Rhine. Louis XIV. thus sacrificed the interests of his country to those of his family, as has been shown by M. MEXNER in his preface to the recent edition of documents relating to the Spanish succession, and his successors were left to expiate a policy as wicked as it was wicked. (1.)

Having thus traced the political history of this period in connexion with the alternate application of the opposite principles of intervention and non-intervention, Mr. W. proceeds to sketch the portraits of the public jurists who succeeded Grotius; such as Puffendorf, Leibnitz, Spinoza, Selden, and the other professors of the science of natural jurisprudence, &c. Protestant Germany was the field where this science was cultivated with the most success. But "in this intellectual land," as our author very justly observes, "more than in any other country, scientific and active life then stood, as they now stand, detached from each other like two separate worlds." The consequence was, that the speculations of these political philosophers could be of very little practical use in laying the foundations of a positive law of nations. This could only spring up from the usage of nations, and the precedents created by diplomatic transactions systematized by more practical writers. Mr. W. therefore passes rapidly over the sterile and unprofitable controversies among the German public jurists respecting the obligation, or binding force of international law, its nature and causes, and proceeds to a more minute examination of the principles of the maritime law of nations, which were constantly brought in question during the wars and negotiations of the latter part of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th centuries.

For this purpose he goes back to the middle age, when the practices of maritime warfare may be said to be identified with piracy, which was regulated by the celebrated *Consolato del Mare*. This work is shown by Mr. W. to have been not a positive code, but a mere collection of the usages recognized in practice by the maritime States of the Mediterranean during the 14th century. According to this compilation, everything belonging to an enemy, and wherever found, was considered as lawful booty. According to this principle, the goods of an enemy taken on board the ships of a friend were confiscated as prize of war, whilst the goods of a friend taken in the ships of an enemy were restored to the proprietor. Such continued, long afterwards, to be the common maritime law of nations, except so far as occasionally modified by special convention. When and how the belligerent right of search came to be established as a means for giving effect to the right of capturing enemy's property in the ships of a friend does not clearly appear. The *Consolato* is silent on the subject; but it would seem to have been somehow or other connected with such claims as that of the British crown to the sovereignty of the neighboring seas, which was never acknowledged by France, and gave rise to frequent and bloody wars between Great Britain and Holland, both under the English commonwealth and under the Stuart Kings. The same means was also applied to prevent the carrying of contraband to an enemy, and to enforce the blockade of his ports as against neutral commerce. What commodities were to be considered as contraband became, during this period, the subject of frequent and fierce controversy, especially between England and the Baltic powers, the former insisting on including in the list of contraband, naval stores, corn, and provisions, whilst the latter sought to restrict it to munitions of war actually wrought into the shape of military weapons.

The conventional law of nations, as arising from treaties, on the other hand, constantly tended to limit these extreme rights of war, and to establish the rule that free ships make free goods; that the list of contraband should be restricted to military weapons, and that the declarations of blockade should be accompanied by an actual investment, so as to render it dangerous to enter the blockaded port. The maximum of free ships, free goods, generally coupled with the correlative maxim of *enemy ships, enemy goods*, was recognized in an almost perpetual succession of treaties, from the treaty of the Pyrenees between France and Spain in 1659, to that of Utrecht, 1712. The practice of the Courts of Admiralty, and the prize ordinances of almost every maritime State, were, during the same period, founded on the opposite maxims of the *Consolato del Mare*.

This first period of the author's historical deductions is closed by an examination of the pretension of Great Britain to a right of sovereignty over the four seas which surround her islands, and of Denmark to that of the Sound and the Baltic, under which last claim a tribute still continues to be levied by the Danish Government on foreign navigation passing in and out of the Baltic sea. Those who seek for accurate information on these important subjects will be amply gratified by the fullness and precision of the details contained in this part of Mr. W.'s work.

(1.) See the *additionnelles* to Mr. W.'s book, note A. (To be continued.)

From the Philadelphia American Sentinel.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

The Democratic conferences, from the first, third, and fourth Congressional Districts of Pennsylvania, yesterday made the following nominations:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Thomas McCauley was nominated on the first vote, which was as follows:

Thomas McCauley	33
Thomas B. Florence	7
Charles J. Ingersoll	40

THIRD DISTRICT.

John T. Smith was nominated on the first trial. The vote stood as follows:

John T. Smith	32
Charles Brown	5
James Goodman	4
Daniel K. Miller	3

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Charles J. Ingersoll was nominated on the first trial. The vote stood:

Charles J. Ingersoll	45
Col. J. Sidney Jones	4

In the Second District Joseph C. Neal was nominated some days ago. These four districts are composed within the City and County of Philadelphia.

MECHANICS IN CONGRESS.—Three of the members of Congress from Tennessee, recently elected, are mechanics, viz. Andrew Johnson, (tailor,) I. W.